

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify that the player information derived from an account card associated with a player allows the player to be registered with the player tracking system without requiring the player to specify the player information used to create the player tracking account (see, for example, figure 3 and pages 14-16 of the specification). In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 8-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,450,885 (*Schneier et al.*) The Examiner's rejection is fully traversed below.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has asserted that *Schneier et al.* teaches creating a player tracking account for a player using player information derived from an account card corresponding to an account unrelated to the player tracking system (Office Action, page 2).

It is noted that Figure 2A of *Schneier et al.* "provides a structural diagram of an exemplary player selection database 260." Referring to Figure 2A of *Schneier et al.*, "selection data database 260 maintains data on selections made by a player, and includes fields for saving player ID number 261, tracking number 262, game selected 263, amount of wager 264, time of wager 266, type of wager 267, and a game result 268" (Col. 4, line 65 to Col. 5, line 4). It is also noted that Figure 2B of *Schneier et al.* depicts a "game result database 265" that "tracks the results associated with each set of player selection data and includes fields for the player ID number 261, selection data tracking number 262, game result 268, result value 269, time of result 271, and status of payment 272" (Col. 5, lines 5-11).

However, it is respectfully submitted that *Schneier et al.* does NOT teach or suggest creating a player tracking account using player information derived from an account card associated with a player. In fact, *Schneier et al.* states that information stored in various fields of player database 255 is "preferably obtained when the player first registers with the system" (Col. 5, lines 12-22). In other words, *Schneier et al.* suggests obtaining registration information from the player when the user first registers with the system for playing electronic games. As such, *Schneier et al.* teaches away from deriving player information from an account associated with a player as it teaches obtaining information during a conventional registration process where the player

specifies the information in order to register with the system. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 19 and 37 and their dependent claims are patentable over *Schneier et al.* for at least this reason.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims recite additional features that render them patentable over *Schneier et al.* for additional reasons. For example, claim 5 recites deriving the player information by requesting the player information from a remote account identified by an account card. It is respectfully submitted that this feature has NOT been addressed in the Office Action. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that *Schneier et al.* does NOT teach or suggest this feature.

As another example, claim 8 recites deriving information from an account card that can be a frequent flyer card, frequent shopper card, a membership card, a credit card, a debit card, a driver's license or and identification card in order to create a player tracking account. It is noted that *Schneier et al.* teaches that "a payment database 285 tracks all payments made by the player," and "may also store credit card numbers of players or bank account information" (Col. 5, lines 44-49). However, it is respectfully submitted that storing credit card numbers or bank account information does NOT teach or even remotely suggest deriving information from an account card in order to create a player tracking account. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that *Schneier et al.* does NOT teach or suggest this feature.

Still further, it is respectfully submitted that storing credit card numbers does teach or suggest effecting an electronic funds transfer from the remote account associated with the account card to the player tracking account (claim 6).

Additional limitations recited in the independent claims or the dependent claims are not further discussed because the limitations discussed above are sufficient to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P070). Should the Examiner believe that

a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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